What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing advanced interactive voice response services within a telecommunications network, comprising the steps of:

defining a reusable set of service-independent building blocks in a node of said telecommunications network;

creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks; and

retrieving said customer application file for execution by said node from said server over a communications network.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

executing said customer application file on the node to handle a call.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said defining step comprises the steps of:

defining rules under which each of said set of service-independent building blocks operate;

defining inputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks; and

defining outputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said creating step comprises the step of:

using a sequence of at least one of the following of said set of service-independent

building blocks:

Audio;

Branch;

Bridge;

Call;

Conference;

Database;

Entry;

Exit;

FAX;

Hangup;

Input;

Interrupt;

Jump;

Manipulate;

Menu;

Park;

Provision; and

Record.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said creating step further comprises the steps of:

storing said set of customer specific data in an advanced network database of said

server to create a customer specific data file.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

assigning said customer application file an identification number associated with said customer specific data file.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said executing step comprises the steps of:

retrieving said customer application file using said application identification number;

retrieving said customer specific data file from said advanced network database; and

using said set of customer specific data in said customer specific data file as inputs into said sequence of said set of service-independent building blocks.

8. A system for providing advanced interactive voice response services within a telecommunications network, comprising:

means for defining a reusable set of service-independent building blocks in a node of said telecommunications network;

means for creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks; and

means for retrieving said customer application file for execution by said node from said server over a communications network.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

means for executing said customer application file on the node to handle a call.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein said defining means comprises:

first defining means for defining rules under which each of said set of service-independent building blocks operate;

second defining means for defining inputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks; and

third defining means for defining outputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said creating means comprises:

means for using a sequence of at least one of the following of said set of service-independent building blocks:

Audio;

Branch;

Bridge;

Call;

Conference;

Database;

Entry;

Exit;

FAX;

Hangup;

Input;

Interrupt;

Jump;

Manipulate;

Menu;

Park;

Provision; and

Record.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein said defining means further comprises:

means for storing said set of customer specific data in an advanced network database of said applications server to create a customer specific data file.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

means for assigning said customer application file an identification number associated with said customer specific data file; and

second means for storing said customer application file on the server.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said means for executing comprises:

first means for retrieving said customer application file using said application

identification number;

second means for retrieving said customer specific data file from said advanced network database; and

means for using said set of customer specific data in said customer specific data file as inputs into said sequence of said set of service-independent building blocks.

15. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code means embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer that provides a system for providing advanced interactive voice response services, said computer readable program code means performing the following steps:

defining a reusable set of service-independent building blocks in a node of said telecommunications network;

creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks; and

retrieving said customer application file for execution by said node from said server over a communications network.